

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 14, and 17-20 as follows.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A respiratory measurement system, comprising:

a plastic cord strapping device that is configured to be placed across a chest of a person, the plastic cord strapping device being substantially transparent to x-rays; and,

a sensor ~~operatively~~ coupled to the plastic cord strapping device generating a measurement signal indicative of a an amount of displacement of the plastic cord strapping device during respiration by the person.

Claim 2 (Original): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising a device generating a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

Claim 3 (Original): The respiratory measurement system of claim 2 wherein respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 wherein the plastic cord strapping device comprises a polypropylene string.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising a plastic tube configured to be placed across the chest of the person, the plastic cord strapping device being disposed in the plastic tube.

Claim 6 (Original): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 wherein the sensor comprises a linear position encoder.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising:

a tabletop having a securing device and a pulley coupled thereto, wherein a first portion of the plastic cord strapping device extends between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow the chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The respiratory measurement system of claim 7 wherein a second portion of the plastic cord strapping device extends from the pulley to the sensor.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for measuring respiratory motion of a person, comprising:

disposing a plastic cord strapping device across a chest of the person, the plastic cord strapping device being substantially transparent to x-rays; and,

generating a measurement signal indicative of a an amount of displacement of the plastic cord strapping device during respiration by the person utilizing a sensor coupled to the plastic cord.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9 further comprising disposing a plastic tube across the chest of the person, the plastic cord strapping device being disposed in the plastic tube.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9 wherein the plastic cord strapping device comprises a polypropylene string.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 9 further comprising providing a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12 wherein said respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A medical diagnostic system, comprising:

a tabletop;

an X-ray device disposed proximate the tabletop;

a plastic cord strapping device that is configured to be placed across a chest of a person lying on the tabletop, the plastic cord strapping device being substantially transparent to x-rays; and,

a sensor operatively coupled to the plastic cord strapping device generating a measurement signal indicative of ~~a~~ an amount of displacement of the plastic cord strapping device during respiration by the person, the sensor being outside a scanning area of the X-ray device.

Claim 15 (Original): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a device generating a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

Claim 16 (Original): The medical diagnostic system of claim 15 wherein said respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 wherein the plastic cord strapping device comprises a polypropylene string.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a plastic tube configured to be placed across the chest of the person, the plastic cord strapping device being disposed in the plastic tube.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 wherein the sensor device comprises a linear position encoder.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a securing device and a pulley coupled to the tabletop, a first portion of the plastic cord strapping device extending between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley

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being positioned on the tabletop to allow a chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.